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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-third session (resumed)

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME HELD AT GENEVA ON 17 DECEMBER 1992

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. The Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme met on 17 December 1992 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva under the chairmanship of His Excellency Ambassador J. A. Lanus (Argentina), to review recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters.

2. In its meeting of 17 December 1992, the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters recommended that the Executive Committee approve:

a) An increase in the General Programmes target for 1993 from $ 378,249,000, approved by the Executive Committee at its forty-third session in October 1992, to a level of $ 413,658,000; and

b) A revision to Article 6.5 of the Financial Rules for Voluntary Funds Administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees (A/AC.96/503/Rev.4), raising the level of the Emergency Fund from $ 20,000,000 to $ 25,000,000 and increasing the amount which can be made available for any single emergency in any one year from $ 6,000,000 to $ 8,000,000.

B. Representation on the Committee

3. The following members of the Committee were represented at the session:

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America.

4. The Governments of the following States were present as observers:

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam.

5. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

Commission of the European Communities.

C. Records of the Meeting

6. A full account of the deliberations of the Committee is contained in the Summary Records of the meeting issued as A/AC.96/SR.480.

II. DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Decisions on Administrative and Financial Matters

A. Decision on the 1993 General Programmes Target

7. The Executive Committee,

Recalling the information contained in UNHCR Activities financed by Voluntary Funds: Report for 1991-1992 and proposed Programmes and Budget for 1993 (A/AC.96/793 (Parts I-VI)); the Overview of UNHCR Activities: Report for 1991-1992 (A/AC.96/798); and the Update of UNHCR Programme and Funding Projections for 1992 and 1993 (EC/1992/SC.2/CRP.18 and Add.1),

Bearing in mind its General Decision on Administrative and Financial Matters adopted at the forty-third session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (A/AC.96/804, para. 32) and further information on needs as contained in Overall Programme and Funding Projections for 1992, Revised 1993 General Programmes Target and Overall Programme and Funding Projections for 1993 (EC/1992/SC.2/CRP.25),

Approves an increase to the 1993 General Programmes target from the initially approved $ 378,249,000 to a level of $ 413,658,000 (including $ 25,000,000 for the Emergency Fund, $ 20,000,000 for the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation and $ 33,513,800 for the Programme Reserve), as set out in document EC/1992/SC.2/CRP.25/Rev.1 (Annex VI).

B. Emergency Fund

8. The Executive Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/140 B whereby the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was authorized to determine in future the terms and conditions for the operation of the Emergency Fund of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Bearing in mind its own decision of 6 February 1991 (A/AC.96/768, para. 11) to amend the Financial Rules for Voluntary Funds administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees (A/AC.96/503/Rev.4), and how such amendments have enhanced the flexibility of the Office in responding to humanitarian emergencies,

Noting the increasing demands on the Office to respond to a range of humanitarian emergencies,

Authorizes changes to the Financial Rules for Voluntary Funds administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees, effective 1 January 1993, whereby the High Commissioner for Refugees may allocate from the Emergency Fund up to $ 25 million annually, provided that the amount made available for one single emergency shall not exceed $ 8 million in any one year and that the Fund shall be maintained at not less than $ 8 million.

C. Application by government observer delegations to participate in the work of the Sub-Committees and informal meetings of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

9. The Executive Committee,

Recalling the decision of its thirty-ninth session in 1988, reflected in document A/AC.96/710, to open its two sub-committees and informal meetings to participation as observers by States Members of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies who are not members of the Executive Committee,

Approves applications by the following government observer delegations for participation in the Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection and the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters, as well as in the informal meetings of the Executive Committee in 1993: the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Senegal.